

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Claims 1 through 24 are pending in the application and the Examiner rejected all claims.

Claim Rejections, 35 U.S.C. §103

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-6, 8-10, and 12-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,950,990 to Rajarajan et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0093537 to Bocioned et al.

The Present Invention

The present invention concerns a web-based graphical user interface (GUI) for provisioning hardware resources in a computer network. In one exemplary implementation, the GUI includes various pages for display. Each page includes a first area containing a graphical workflow indicator that provides an ordered list of user-selectable tasks associated with performing provisioning of remotely located computer hardware resources to integrate the resources into a computer network. Each page also includes a second area containing display information and/or parameter fields associated with a particular one of the user-selectable tasks. Accordingly, when a particular one of the user-selectable tasks is selected from the first area, the display information and/or parameter fields necessary to complete operations associated with the particular one of the user-selectable tasks are presented in the second area.

U.S. Patent No. 6,950,990 to Rajarajan et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,950,990 to Rajarajan et al. (“Rajarajan”) teaches a method and system for displaying information related to a plurality of resources in a network environment. In accordance with one embodiment, a method is employed in a computer system for selecting the visual arrangement of workspaces and modules in a network management console GUI. The console includes a first zone and a second zone. The method involves receiving a list of workspace names and, in response, displaying an explorer tool including the list of workspace names in the first zone. Upon indication from a user that a first workspace name from the list of workspace names has been selected, a first workspace associated with the first workspace name is displayed in the second zone. Once displayed in the second zone, a network administrator can access information relating to the workspace, including registered users for the workspace, as well as any additional network resources the workspace can access.

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0093537 to Bocioned et al.

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0093537 to Bocioned et al. (“Bocioned”) teaches a web page navigation system for sequential task oriented processes, workflow management and user specific processes. A network (Internet, Intranet or other network) compatible user interface system supports a process including a sequence of subtasks. The system initiates display of a composite window representing a plurality of overlaid tabbed web page (or application) windows each including a visible tab incorporating an identifier identifying a function provided by a web page or application window associated with a particular subtask of the sequence of subtasks. The visible

tabs and corresponding overlaid tabbed windows are sequentially ordered in accordance with the sequence of subtasks. The system initiates display of a subtask web page or application window in the foreground of the composite window in response to user selection of a visible tab corresponding to the subtask web page or application window.

The Examiner Has Not Established a *Prima Facie* Case of Obviousness

The Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness as the cited references, whether considered alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Specifically, the present claims recite provisioning, or linking, hardware resources in order to organize the hardware resources into a computer network through an interactive GUI. By utilizing the interactive GUI of the present invention, a network administrator can provision hardware resources (e.g., two remotely located servers) resulting in both servers being organized into a network. In the Response to Arguments on page 8 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner contends “Rajarajan clearly teaches using the interface shown in Figure 5 may be used to manage the API [application programming interface] of a hardware resource to ‘allow communication between the resource itself and a separate computer system’ (column 8, lines 15-25) thus creating a network.” Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s interpretation of Rajarajan.

Rajarajan discloses an improved GUI for providing a network administrator access to user information and resources relating to a computer network. The administrator can access and update a user’s personal information, information relating to a user’s workspace, such as where on the network a user’s workstation is located, what printer resources the workstation has access to, etc. By

providing a series of related windows in the GUI, Rajarajan provides an easy to understand management tool for monitoring any known workspace on a managed network.

However, in contrast to the presently claimed invention, nothing in Rajarajan teaches or suggests provisioning hardware resources into a network. The Examiner asserts Rajarajan teaches management of hardware APIs to establish communication between hardware resources and thus create a network. However, Rajarajan is silent on the management of the APIs of a hardware resource. In the citation quoted by the Examiner, Rajarajan is merely defining how the API functions to allow the hardware resource to communicate with other resources. This is well known in the art and is fundamental to computer network architecture. Nowhere, though, does Rajarajan disclose providing a list of user tasks associated with managing these hardware APIs in order to integrate multiple hardware resources into a network as is specifically claimed in the present application. Following the Examiner's citation of column 8 (lines 15-25), Rajarajan goes on to state that for a developer to add a resource to a list of available resources for a particular user or workspace, everything about the resource must be known including what tasks a user of the resource can perform and how the user can connect to the resource (column 8, line 43 through column 9, line 20). Again, Rajarajan is teaching management of a workspace, in this instance, allowing a specific workspace to access a resource already integrated into a network, not provisioning the actual hardware resources themselves into a network.

The addition of Bocioned does not provide the missing teachings or suggestions. In fact, Bocioned is directed toward sequential task oriented processes and workflow management. Bocioned is completely silent on the idea of provisioning of hardware resources in a computer

network. The claims specifically recite these novel elements, neither taught nor suggested by the cited art, as exemplified by independent Claim 1, quoted below with underlining indicating at least some of the recitations of the claim not found in the cited prior art:

One or more computer-readable media comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computer to:

display Web-based pages on a display device, each Web-based display page comprising:

a first area containing a graphical workflow indicator that provides an ordered list of user-selectable tasks associated with performing provisioning hardware resources in order to integrate said computer hardware resources into a network; and

a second area containing display information and/or parameter fields associated with a particular one of the user-selectable tasks, such that when a particular one of the user-selectable tasks is selected from the first area, information and/or parameter fields necessary to complete operations associated with the particular one of the user-selectable tasks are presented in the second area.

The other independent claims include similar recitations and therefore distinguish over the cited prior art for at least all of the same reasons as claim 1.

Conclusion

The present invention is not taught or suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims. An early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 19-5425.

Respectfully submitted,

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